



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### CHANGES IN STEEL SHOT ZONES PROPOSED IN PARTS OF FOUR STATES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing changes in the zones where non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl hunting in the States of Michigan, Florida, Illinois, and Texas.

The proposal, based on requests from the wildlife conservation agencies of each of the four States, would increase the areas in three States and reduce it in Michigan. One additional zone is proposed for Illinois and three additional areas are proposed in Florida. Texas represents the largest proposed expansion of non-toxic shot areas with seven counties along the southeast coast and portions of five mid-coast counties.

Spent lead pellets, when ingested by migratory waterfowl, can have a toxic effect. Steel shot does not have this effect and is the only type of non-toxic shot currently available. With the approval of individual State conservation departments, the Fish and Wildlife Service annually enforces the use of non-toxic shot in specified zones as part of the annual Federal waterfowl hunting regulations.

The proposed changes to the existing non-toxic shot restrictions were published in the Federal Register on January 13, 1983. Comments on the proposal will be accepted until February 25 and should be sent to the Director (MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240